



What's Next?

What do you think? We'd like to hear from you. Following the town meetings, each city will hold a public hearing to consider placing this issue on the ballot in November.

How to Learn More

The full text of the feasibility study can be obtained on each city's website, at any Salt Lake County Library branch within the Jordan School District, or at the city offices of each participating community. We encourage you to learn all you can about this very important issue for our community.



Should We Create a New School District?

Information to Help You Decide





Draper, Alta, Sandy, Midvale, Cottonwood Heights, and Salt Lake County have hired a consulting team to study the feasibility of creating a new school district. The purpose of the study is to provide independent information to community leaders and citizens to help determine if creating a new school district would be beneficial to our community. The outside consulting team will present their findings to the public at four town meetings.

Town Meetings

Date	Location	Time
May 16	Midvale Middle School Auditorium – 7852 South Pioneer St., Midvale	7:00 p.m.
May 29	Juan Diego High School Auditorium – 300 East 11800 South, Draper	7:00 p.m.
May 30	Butler Middle School Auditorium – 7530 South 2700 East, Cottonwood Heights	7:00 p.m.
May 31	Eastmont Middle School Auditorium – 10100 South 1300 East, Sandy	7:00 p.m.

Summary

State law allows cities to study the feasibility of creating a school district in their community. The Jordan School District will grow from 78,000 to 103,000 students over the next nine years. Sandy, Draper, Alta, Midvale, Cottonwood Heights, and Salt Lake County teamed up to study the idea of creating a new school district. This study was recently completed and found that a new school district would have more resources to dedicate toward educational and school remodeling needs. City councils must now use this feasibility study and public input to determine whether to put this issue on the ballot. If a new school district is going to be created, the decision will be made by a vote of the citizens in November.

Study Findings

While future school boards will make decisions affecting specific financial and educational issues, the study shows programs, achievements, finances, and responsiveness may be affected in the following ways:

Educational Quality and Achievement

- The new district will be capable of continuing the educational programs currently offered by the Jordan District.
- The two districts would be very similar in terms of academic achievement and test score results.
- The study cites research which shows that smaller districts generally correlate with smaller schools and class sizes
- The study results also cited school district employees' concerns regarding job security and salaries when creating a new school district, yet noted that state law protects employees in such a situation by maintaining their salaries, benefits, and seniority status.

School Finances

- Creating a new school district will not cause taxes in the cities east of the Jordan River to go up.
- With existing taxes, a new school district in the cities east of the Jordan River would have more revenues per student than currently exist.

- The west side of the Jordan School District would have less revenue per student than currently, but still more than many Wasatch Front districts.
- If a division does not occur, the need to bond for new schools will require a property tax increase across the entire district.
- If a new school district is created, it could direct local tax resources to meet local school facility needs, such as renovations, rebuilds, and new schools.

Local Responsiveness

- School priorities east of the Jordan River are different from those on the west. While the west side of the district needs more schools to meet growth, the east communities have aging schools and stable student enrollments.
- A new school district in cities east of the Jordan River would benefit all communities by directing locally generated taxes to the specific needs of each area.
- Creating smaller school districts will offer more local control and could more locally responsive to differing citizen preferences.

